



Re the Application of:

Leon W.M.M. Terstappen, Galla Chandra Rao, Herman Rutner, and Paul A. Liberty

Application/Control Number: 09/801,471

Application Filed: March 7, 2001

Title: Labeled Cells For Use As An Internal Functional Control In Rare Cell Detection Assays.

Art Unit: 1642

Examiner: Karen A. Canella, Ph.D.

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir or Madam:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 27, 2003, please amend the above application as follows:

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1, 7, 10, 16, 20, 22, 28, 35, 37, 47, and 54 as follows:

1. (Amended) A process for producing a stabilized cell for use as an internal control in methods for isolating and identifying rare cells, said stabilized control cell having determinants in common with said rare cells, said process comprising:

- a) redundantly labeling said control cell with at least two distinct fluorescent labels having the same spectral properties;
- b) permeabilizing said control cell;
- c) contacting said labeled cells with a cell fixative said fixative effecting stabilization of both cellular structure and antigenic moieties present on said control cells;

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